



# **Hello and Welcome**

Of all the wonderful attractions in Northern Arizona, thank you for visiting Petrified Forest National Park. This piece of America's heritage was set aside in 1906 to protect, and make available for public enjoyment, one of the largest petrified wood deposits in the world. But there are compelling human stories here, too. Several modern American Indian tribes have ancestral ties to this place. In recent times, Route 66 passed through the park. Many of the structures in use today to support your visit and management activities are now on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark.

Whatever your interest, please ask a ranger for more information or check out our website at www.nps.gov/ pefo. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. We want to make your visit informative and enjoyable. If we spark your continuing interest in the stories the park has to tell, we're glad to help you find more information. The most popular way to experience the park is to drive the 28 mile long park road from one end to the other. There are many pullouts and several short trails to get you closer to the story.

Please join the millions of visitors who have enjoyed the petrified wood and left it undisturbed for others to enjoy too. If you see illegal activity, please let our law enforcement staff know. Petrified wood collected legally from locations outside the park is available for sale in the park gift shop.

We hope you enjoy your connection with Petrified Forest National Park. We invite you to walk the trails amidst ancient petrified logs, take in the wide vistas of the Painted Desert, discover voices of the past in the petroglyphs, and listen to the silence of the wilderness. Enjoy your park, and thanks for your support!

**Brad Traver** Superintendent

# More Spectacular Than Ever

Maybe you are someone who has heard that massive amounts of petrified wood have been stolen from Petrified Forest National Park over the many decades visitors have been coming. Maybe you wonder what's left for you to see today. We want to put your mind at ease.

To counter the belief some people hold that whole forests of petrified wood have been removed, we have expanded a re-photography effort begun in 2007 to capture images of Petrified Forest's most important and iconic areas. This project is taking the many historic photographs in our collection (more than 200 so far) and reshooting those images from the same vantage points today. Two examples are shown below. The results of these many photo pairs show that the vast majority of petrified wood is right where it was 80 to 120 years ago when the pictures were first taken. Some pieces have rolled off bluffs into lowlands below. The wood in the Giant Logs area was rearranged for the expansion of the Rainbow Forest Museum in the 1950s. But nowhere in the park is it obvious that thieves have stripped away the wood that gives the park its famous name.

Wood theft does occur. We do catch and fine people who attempt to remove petrified wood, and we will always continue our vigilance. Occasionally, some wood pieces even arrive back in the mail from

guilty parties. But the underlying message of the old "massive theft" narrative—that today's visitors are seeing something less spectacular than their greatgrandparents saw—is simply not true. These images show that Petrified Forest National Park is more spectacular than ever!

We also know—and celebrate—that the overwhelming majority of our park visitors continue to respect the rules and leave petrified wood where it lies for the appreciation of all. We thank you for this citizen stewardship! Now, we ask you to help us continue this important work to document the park's condition. Please send scans of any and all photographs you have in your family archives of Petrified Forest before 1950 (send to PEFO\_ Superintendent@nps.gov). If we can find the point from which it was taken, we will reshoot the image. Then we will add the old/new pair to our collection and show the results from time to time, including if this shows wood theft has occurred.

Thank you, and enjoy Petrified Forest National Park!



Local rancher Adam Hanna reclines on petrified wood, ca. 1899

A match in Jasper Forest over 100 years later





Twin Sisters in Crystal

Forest

# What's Inside?

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National Park Service

### **Petrified Forest National Park**

Mailing Address Petrified Forest National Park P.O. Box 2217 Petrified Forest, AZ 86028

PEFO\_Superintendent@nps.gov

Fax Number 928-524-3567

Park Headquarters 928-524-6228

Website www.nps.gov/pefo

Cover image Jasper Forest

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Entrance Fees	
7-day pass  Vehicle and passengers  Individual entering on motorcycle, bicycle, or foot	
Annual Pass	
Petrified Forest Annual Pass	.\$20
Interagency Annual Pass	.\$80
Interagency Military Pass	Fre
(for active duty military & dependents)	
Lifetime Passes	
Interagency Senior Pass	\$10
(for US citizens 62+)	
Interagency Access Pass	.Fre
(for US citizens with disability)	
Other passes honored	

# **Park Hours of Operation**

Golden Age & Golden Access

The park is open every day except December 25. The park is open at least 8 am to 5 pm Mountain Standard Time (MST) year round, with extended hours spring through fall. Check www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/ hours.htm for specific information.

Note: Arizona does not observe daylight saving time. An exception is the nearby Navajo Nation, with does observe daylight saving time.



# **Lodging and Camping**

There is no overnight lodging available in the park, and camping in the park is limited to backpacking in the wilderness area. Nearby communities that offer lodging and camping options include Holbrook, Winslow, Gallup, and St. Johns. Several area national forest service areas and state parks also offer lodging and camping options.

# **Regulations and Safety**

In case of emergency call 911, 928-524-9126, or contact any park ranger

### Driving

- Stay on paved roads.
- Observe speed limits, which range between 15 and 45 miles per hour.
- Park or stop in designated areas. Do not stop in the middle of the road.
- Thank you for not idling your engine for extended periods of time (five minutes during periods of inclement weather, two minutes all other times).

### Enjoying the Park

- Watch for lightning during inclement weather. Take shelter in an enclosed vehicle or building.
- All objects in the park are protected. Thank you for not collecting petrified wood, fossils, rocks, animals, plants, artifacts, etc.
- Use appropriate trash receptacles and recycling bins found throughout the park.
- Firearms are prohibited in federal buildings. Watch wildlife from a distance. Wild animals can carry diseases including rabies, hanta virus, and plague.

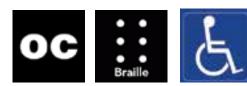
## Trails and Hiking

- Stay on designated trails while in developed hiking areas.
- Do not go beyond protective fencing.
- Avoid cliff edges which can be unstable.
- Respect prehistoric structures by not climbing on them. Enjoy petroglyphs, but do not touch or
- contact them in any way. Stay hydrated! Water is available at the
- Painted Desert Visitor Center, Painted Desert Inn, and Rainbow Forest Museum.
- Protect yourself from the sun. Wear sunglasses with UV protection, hat, and sunscreen.

All park rules and regulations are available at www.nps.gov/pefo/parkmgmt/upload/PEFO-2013-Superintendent-s-Compendium.pdf

# **Accessibility**

Restrooms, visitor centers, and picnic areas are accessible or accessible with assistance for wheelchairs. The park film is open captioned. There is a free book in braille available at our visitor centers. Service animals are welcome everywhere in the park.







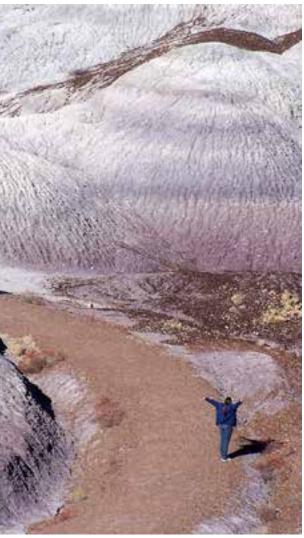


Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark in the snow

Cli	Climatic Averages for Petrified Forest (based on a fifty year period)					
Month	Average Max	Average Min Temperature °F	Average Daily Precipitation (inches)	Average Monthly Precipitation (inches)		
Jan	47.5	21	0.018	0.571		
Feb	54	25	0.018	0.521		
Mar	61	29	0.0195	0.606		
April	70	35	0.012	0.371		
May	79	43	0.014	0.446		
June	89	52	0.012	0.348		
July	92	60	0.042	1.311		
Aug	89	59	0.056	1.744		
Sept	83.5	52	0.041	1.227		
Oct	72	40	0.032	1.001		
Nov	58.5	37	0.022	0.672		
Dec	48	21	0.022	0.679		
Total	-	-	-	9.497		



View the awesome power of nature from a safe shelter.



Hiking Blue Mesa Trail

# Recreation



A bicyclist at Newspaper Rock

### Bicycle Use

Bicycle use is permitted on paved park roads and parking areas open to the public. In addition, the following unpaved areas are also approved for bicycle use:

- The unpaved portion of Old Route 66 (near #1 on park map, pg. 4-5)
- The eastern portion of Old Highway 180 in the Rainbow Forest area from its intersection with the main park road to the east boundary (near #11 on park map)
- The trail beginning at Rainbow Forest Picnic Area and continuing to the base of the mesa, ending at a loop in the road, about a mile (near #11 on park map).
- The portion of the Long Logs trail from its intersection with the main park road, continuing to the trailhead loop area approximately 1.2 mile up the trail (near #12 on park map)



A visitor enjoying the park with two furry friends

Petrified Forest is a pet friendly National Park! Pets are allowed on trails and in the park's wilderness. Thank you for following these rules and regulations for pets:

- Pets must be leashed (no longer than 6 feet) and physically restrained at all times.
- Pets are not allowed in buildings, except for service animals.
- Pets may be tied to an object for short periods of time (less than 5 minutes) in developed areas or during emergencies.
- Don't allow your pet to interact with
- Clean up all pet waste and dispose of it properly. A 'pet relief' area is designated at the Painted Desert Visitor Center parking



Devil's Playground. Access to this area by permit only.

# Wilderness areas are protected and valued for

Wilderness Adventure

their untrammeled, natural, undeveloped, and secluded qualities. The Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area was one of the first to receive this designation in the National Park System. The park consists of two units covering over 50,000 acres of mesas, buttes, badlands, and scattered areas of grasslands.

Wilderness hiking offers the opportunity to visit sites seldom seen by most park visitors. There are no developed trails; hiking is cross-country. Be prepared! There is no water and little shade in the backcountry.

# Wilderness Recreation Information:

- No permits are required for day hiking.
- Day hikers must be back at their vehicles by the park's posted closing time.
- A permit for wilderness camping (required for overnight use) can be obtained from the Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow Forest Museum on the day of activity.
- All permit applicants must read and sign the permit conditions sheet before being issued a permit.
- Follow Leave No Trace principles. To learn more, visit www.LNT.org/learn/7-principles.
- Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed in wilderness.
- Horses and other pack animals are allowed in wilderness.
- Overnight group size is limited to eight people and six stock animals.
- No wood or charcoal fires are allowed. The use of solar, propane/butane, and white gas fueled stoves is allowed.

For more information go to www.nps.gov/pefo/ planyourvisit/backpacking.htm.



# **Permits Needed for** Wilderness Camping

Camping in the wilderness of Petrified Forest is a great opportunity for solitude and adventure. As there are no designated camping sites, you choose your spot anywhere within the specified boundaries. This allows you to select your place in the wild to enjoy colorful sunsets, the incredible night sky, and inspiring sunrises. Obtain a camping permit at Painted Desert Visitor Center or Rainbow Forest Museum (both facilities open 8 am to 5 pm daily) before embarking on your journey. Permits are free!

## **Off the Beaten Path Hikes**

With 50,000 acres of wilderness available, hiking off trail and "off the beaten path" is a great option for those interested. Some destinations can be found off an old road or trail no longer maintained; others may require route finding skills. For more information (including routes and maps), ask at Painted Desert Visitor Center, Rainbow Forest Museum, or visit www.nps.gov/pefo/off-the-beaten-path.htm.



Off trail hike into Old Blue Forest

## Top 5 Off the Beaten Path Hikes:

## Old Blue Forest

1.2 mi (1.9 km) one way hike along an unmaintained CCC trail.

### 2.5 mi (4 km) round trip on an old road among petrified wood. **Onyx Bridge**

4 mi (6.4 km) round trip hike to a petrified wood "bridge".

2 mi (3.2 km) walk to a petroglyph site with a solar marker.

## Billings Gap

3 mi (4.8 km) round trip hike atop the Blue Mesa. Martha's Butte

Blue Mesa



# **Park Map**

# What Should I See and Do?

Any time spent at Petrified Forest National Park is time well spent. The highest concentrations of petrified wood are found in the southern end of the park, while the northern end contains the Painted Desert and showcases the human story.

### If you have one or two hours:

Decide which end of the park interests you and spend time there, saving the rest for another visit.

- South End: Visit the Rainbow Forest Museum and watch the park film; walk Giant Logs and Crystal Forest trails; drive the Blue Mesa Road.
- North End: Visit the Painted Desert Visitor Center and watch the park film; select several overlooks to take in the Painted Desert; visit the Painted Desert Inn National Historic Landmark.

If you have half a day, do the above and add:

- Drive through the entire park.
- Walk the Painted Desert Rim Trail to Kachina Point.
- Stop at the Route 66, Newspaper Rock, Agate Bridge, and Jasper Forest overlooks.
- Visit Puerco Pueblo.
- Attend a ranger program (available seasonally).
- Hike the Blue Mesa and/or Agate House Trails.
- Walk the Giant Logs Trail (pick up a trail guide at Rainbow Forest Museum).

If you have a full day or more, do the above and add:

- Hike to Long Logs and Agate House.
- Choose an Off the Beaten Path hike (some listed on page 3).
- Spend the night in the park's wilderness.
- Celebrate—you have the luxury of time to enjoy!

# M Developed Trails

Painted Desert Rim: 1 mi (1.6 km) round trip
A walk along the plateau rim provides excellent views
of the Painted Desert below.

## Puerco Pueblo: 0.3 mi (0.5 km) loop

Walk among a partial excavation of a 100+ room village, occupied 1250-1380 CE.

# Blue Mesa: 1 mi (1.6 km) loop

Steep path enters into vibrant blue, purple, and gray badlands dotted with colorful petrified wood.

**Crystal Forest: 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop**Explore a beautiful scatter of colorful petrified logs.

# Giant Logs: 0.4 mi (0.6 km) loop

See some of the largest and most colorful logs in the park. "Old Faithful" is the showcase log, at almost ten feet across the base.

Trail guide available at Rainbow Forest Museum

# Long Logs: 1.6 mi (2.5 km) loop\*

Site of a Triassic log jam, this area is covered in especially long petrified tree trunks.

Agate House: 2 mi (3.2 km) round trip\*
Walk to a seven room reconstructed pueblo.

\*Long Logs and Agate House Trails can be combined, as they start from the same trailhead, for a total of 2.6 mi (4.2 km) round trip.



Stop for historic architecture, park film, information, bookstore, gift shop, food, and gas.



Enjoy spectacular views of the Painted Desert from several overlooks in this area.



View ancestral Puebloan homes and petroglyphs along a 0.3 mi (0.5 km) loop trail.



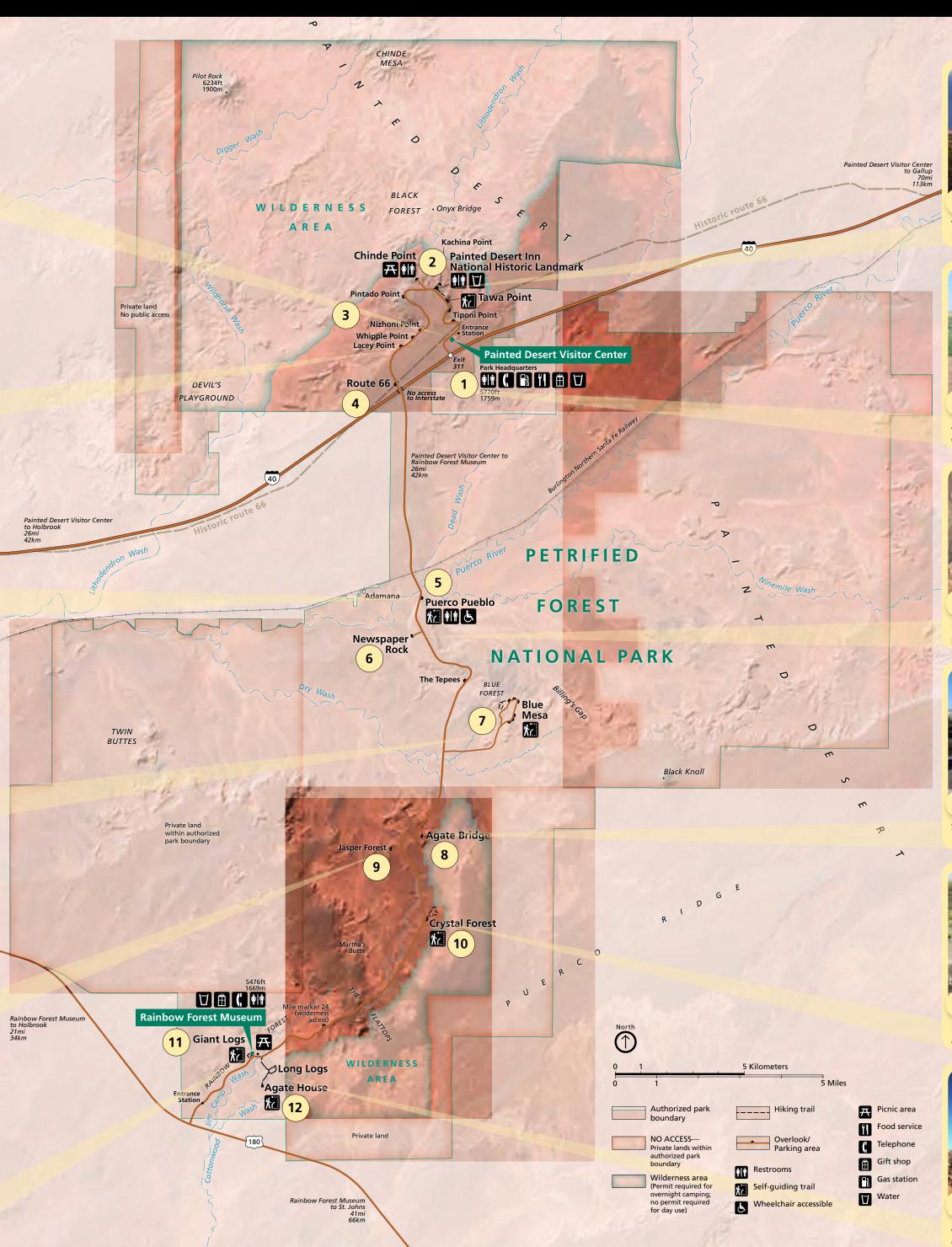
Walk the 1 mi (1.6 km) trail and/or drive the 3.5 mi (5.6 km) loop road to explore colorful geology.



Enjoy a panoramic view of an area with a high concentration of petrified wood.



Study paleontological exhibits in the museum and walk a 0.4 mi (0.6 km) loop trail.





This former inn, now a National Historic Landmark, offers exhibits on the building's history.



A 1932 Studebaker sits where famed Route 66 once cut through the park.



Look down from an overlook to see over 650 petroglyphs, some as old as 2000 years.



See a large petrified log spanning a gully.



Many petrified logs glimmer with quartz crystals along a paved 0.75 mi (1.2 km) loop trail.



A 2.6 mi (4.2 km) trail showcases petrified logs and a pueblo reconstructed of petrified wood.

# **Special Programs**

# **Junior Ranger Program**

We invite you to become a member of a very special group of people! Junior Rangers take time to explore, learn, and protect their national parks while having fun.

Kids of any age who complete the required activities in the park's Junior Ranger Activity Booklet will earn a badge and patch. Stop at:

- Painted Desert Visitor Center
- Painted Desert Inn, or
- Rainbow Forest Museum



# **Education Program**

Educators, make Petrified Forest National Park your outdoor classroom! You and your class can explore the park on your own or schedule to meet a ranger. Ranger-led education programs at Petrified Forest meet many Arizona and national Academic Standards and include subject matter on late Triassic fossils and geology, prehistoric archeology, American history, and ecology. Education programs can be tailored to your specific curriculum needs. Entry fees are waived for academic groups that qualify.

Can't visit the park? Distance learning opportunities are available through our Traveling Trunk Program and a lending library which includes videos and an interactive virtual tour of the park. If your school is located within 100 miles of Petrified Forest you can also arrange for a ranger to visit your classroom.

Looking for books for your classroom? Just show your teacher ID to receive a 25% discount at the non-profit bookstores in the parks visitor center and museum locations.

Generous visitor donations to the Petrified Forest Travel Grant program have helped pay field trip costs for dozens of local schools.

Your donations change lives!

For more information and to download the fee waiver application go to www.nps.gov/ pefo/forteachers/index.



Student enjoys simulated fossil diq.



Ranger guided tour of Puerco Pueblo

Forest Museum.

lot trailhead.

Programs may include:

Ranger programs are available seasonally and

as staffing allows, with schedules posted at

Triassic Park Talk (about 30 minutes):

walk on the nearby Giant Logs Trail.

Discover the landscape of long ago and learn

Museum. This program may include a brief

about the Late Triassic. Meet at Rainbow Forest

Painted Desert Inn Tour (about 30 minutes):

Learn about the former inn's captivating history and architecture. Meet at Painted Desert Inn.

Puerco Pueblo Walk (about 45 minutes):

Explore an ancestral Puebloan village and

discover petroglyphs while walking along a

Additional activities and events occur

pefo/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm.

paved trail. Meet at the Puerco Pueblo parking

throughout the year. Check at Painted Desert

when you visit the park, or visit www.nps.gov/

Visitor Center or Rainbow Forest Museum

Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow

# Navajo rug weaving demonstration **Cultural Demonstrations**

The Cultural Demonstration Program at Petrified Forest National Park promotes awareness and appreciation for the diverse

Traditionally offered on weekends spring through fall, visitors can interact with demonstrators, learn more about the people and places of the Petrified Forest region, and purchase locally-made crafts.

For more information: www.nps.gov/pefo/planyourvisit/cultural-



Zuni fetish carving

history and cultures of the region.

demonstrations.htm.



Artists have influenced the formation, expansion, and direction of our national parks.

Founded in 2006 as part of the park's Centennial Celebration, the park's Artist-in-Residence Program continues this tradition. The program offers visual, performing, and literary artists the opportunity to pursue their artistic discipline while being surrounded by Petrified Forest's inspiring landscape. Artists selected for the program enjoy a two-week residency and, while in the park, share their artistry and provide experiences for visitors.

For more information and to apply: www.nps.gov/pefo/parknews/artist-inresidence.htm.



Artist Patricia Cummins demonstrates painting en plein air.



Chinle Formation badlands painting by Artist Jess Cieply



Artist Mary Nasser photographs a petroglyph.

# **Getting Involved**

# **Volunteers—Very Important People**

There are opportunities throughout the year to volunteer at Petrified Forest National Park. The Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) program here offers volunteers a wide variety of experiences, from working in visitor centers, to roving the park, to assisting paleontological and archaeological research teams in the field.

You can also support the Park's volunteer program by making a donation. Your donation will directly support the housing of volunteers here at Petrified Forest National Park.



Volunteers are provided uniforms to show their status.

Interested? Let's talk! Go to: www.nps.gov/pefo/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm or call the Volunteer Coordinator at 928-524-6228, x264.



VIP Trish Jackson puts her equestrian skills to use with the park horses.



VIP Eric Shreiner leads visitors on an off the beaten path hike

Volunteering allowed me to share my passion for discovery. It was really fulfilling to help people connect to their National Parks, and know that I made a difference at Petrified Forest.

Eric Shreiner, a two season VIP



A park employee prepares a metoposaur interclavical.

Funds generated by entrance fees are used to accomplish projects that the park has been unable to fund through yearly Congressional allocations.

Recent projects at Petrified Forest National Park made possible by your fees:

- Conducting condition assessments of archaeological sites
- Preparing fossil specimens for visitor display and education
- Enhancing the park's high school education program
- Rehabilitating restrooms

For more information go to www.nps.gov/pefo/ parkmgmt/yourdollarsatwork.htm.

In addition, donations to the park are always appreciated. They directly benefit the park, especially through the Volunteer and Internship programs.

Donation boxes are found at the Painted Desert Visitor Center, Rainbow Forest Museum, and Painted Desert Inn, or you can donate at either entrance station.

Donations may also be made by check or money order payable to "National Park Service". If a donation is made in someone's honor, please include contact information of that person so they may receive an acknowledgement note.



Fred Harvey Company at Painted Desert Inn ca. 1950

## **Xanterra Parks & Resorts**

The commercial concessionaire for Petrified Forest National Park is Xanterra Parks & Resorts (once the Fred Harvey Company). They are the United States' largest operator of park-based hotels, restaurants, and stores.

At the north end of the park, Xanterra operates the Painted Desert Diner, a gift shop, a convenience store, and a gas station. At the south end of the park, Xanterra operates a gift shop and seasonal snack bar.

Combining dramatic settings and landmark buildings with exceptional service, Xanterra offers legendary hospitality with a soft footprint. Be sure to enjoy their hospitality during your visit to the park!

**Petrified Forest Museum Association** 

Petrified Forest Museum Association operates

two non-profit bookstores in the park (at

Painted Desert Visitor Center and Rainbow

Forest Museum). Your purchase from this

valued partner directly helps the park with

To become a member and find out more:

www.petrifiedforestbookstore.com

financial and staff aid.



Friends group exploring petroglyph site

# **Friends of Petrified Forest**

The Friends of Petrified Forest National Park is a non-profit, partner organization that supports the mission of the park, particularly in the science and education fields. The role of Friends of Petrified Forest National Park is to bring expertise to the planning and support of research projects and educational endeavors designed to study, evaluate, and interpret the natural and cultural resources of the park.

Friends receive three digital newsletters per year that update members on what's new at Petrified Forest National Park.

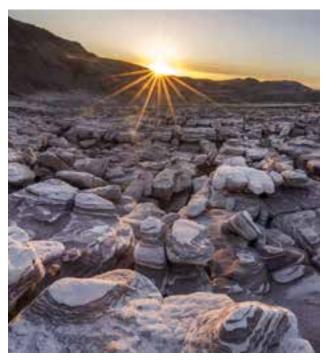
Interested? Visit the group's Facebook site at: www.facebook.com/ FriendsofPetrifiedForestNationalPark.





Scan to visit

# **New Developments**



Sunset over unique sandstone formations on newly acquired land

### **Expanding our Horizons**

Congress authorized an expansion of Petrified Forest National Park by over 100% of our size in 2004. We have been busy acquiring and assessing new expansion lands since then and in 2014, we expect to open over 13,000 acres of these lands for public enjoyment. None of them have paved roads but there are some interesting things to see on these lands—ask us about them if you are ready to explore!



Paleontology interns uncover the bones of a giant amphibian.

Petrified Forest National Park is a world class scientific laboratory for study of fossils from the later part of the Triassic Period (about 227-205 million years ago). The fossil record at the park preserves everything from fossil pollen and spores to some of the earliest dinosaurs, and allows for reconstruction of several ancient environments through time. The recent addition of more than 40,000 acres to the park has resulted in the discovery of many more fossiliferous layers including a new locality where the bones of numerous fish, giant amphibians, and reptiles reflect life in an ancient lake setting. Ongoing paleontological and geological research, both through park staff and our academic partners, is reconstructing the history of life during this period at a degree of detail never before attempted, including determination of climate change (temperature and precipitation rates) and its effects on biotic (animal and plant) extinctions.



Those aren't wildflowers—they are flags marking artifacts

### From the Desk of an Archeologist

Humans have been living and working in the Painted Desert for the last 13,000 years. Petrified Forest National Park protects hundreds of significant archeological sites. The record of human occupation ranges from small singleroom field houses to villages where hundreds of people lived. Phenomenal rock art sites are scattered throughout the park. Ongoing archeological research by park archeologists and partners is aimed at developing a better understanding of how people hunted, farmed, and lived in this seemingly harsh environment. By studying these sites and the artifacts they contain—like pottery and stone and bone tools —archeologists can get a picture of the past lives of the inhabitants of Petrified Forest. The ongoing expansion of the park has added almost unlimited research potential to help answer these questions. A three-year research effort is underway to locate, study, and interpret the archeological history of newly added portions of Petrified Forest National Park.



# Online with Petrified Forest

You can virtually visit Petrified Forest National Park online!





www.nps.gov/pefo

Stay connected with the park through our social networks:





Facebook: www.facebook.com/PetrifiedForestNPS





Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/petrifiedforestnps





Twitter: www.twitter.com/PetrifiedNPS





YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGSp8Qe\_g\_ FvoOoAQWaH6q

## **Going Green**

Petrified Forest National Park strives to be a leader in environmental awareness and management. You can help us in the following ways:

- Look for recycling receptacles when throwing out paper, plastics, and aluminum.
- Bring your own water bottle and refill it for free (see the park map to see
- Enjoy a walk in the parkit is good for you and for the environment!

where water is available).



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

